

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 DODE-00

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USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 2300

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: PARM, MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR DATA

VIENNA FOR USDEL MBFR

REF: (A) STATE 80176; (B) STATE 79255; (C) USNATO 2005

BEGIN SUMMARY: CHAIRMAN MBFR DATA SUPPORT SUBGROUP ASKED MISSION IF U.S. COULD ACCEPT USE OF ACTUAL GROUND MANPOWER FIGURE REPORTED IN U.S. SUBMISSIONS TO NATO FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE FOR MBFR PURPOSES. QUESTION IMPINGES ON NATO'S MBFR ESTIMATE OF TOTAL NATO GROUND PERSONNEL IN NGA.

ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE ON FIGURE TO BE USED FOR U.S. ECOMPONENT OF TOTAL NATO GROUND PERSONNEL IN NGA USED FOR MBFR AND WHETHER MISSION SHOULD URGE NATO TO MAINTAIN ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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CURRENT ESTIMATE OF 777,000 GROUND PERSONNEL FOR MBFR WHILE A HIGHER NATO ESTIMATE IS APPARENTLY EMERGING FROM LATEST NATIONAL ESTIMATES. END SUMMARY

1. MISSION APPRECIATES RESPONSES, PROVIDED IN REFTELS (A) AND (B), TO LARGE PORTION OF OUTSTANDING MBFR DATA QUESTIONS THAT NATO HAS PUT TO WASHINGTON.

2. WE UNDERSTAND FROM NATO DATA EXPERTS THAT U.S. SUBMISSIONS TO NATO FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE REPORT ACTUAL U.S. GROUND MANPOWER IN NGA AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1973, AS APPROXIMATELY 188,000. CHAIRMAN MBFR DATA SUBROUP (BRANSON) ASKED MISSION IF NATO COULD USE THIS ACTUAL U.S. FIGURE FOR MBFR PURPOSES, I.E., AS U.S. COMPONENT OF NATO'S ANSER TO LATEST AD HOC GROUP DATA REQUEST (SEE VIENNA 2977).

3. CHAIRMAN'S QUESTION IMPINGES ON THE BROADER ISSUE OF FIGURES USED PUBOICLY AND WITH THE WARSAW PACT. LAST FALL, NATO AGREED TO TWO FIGURES FOR NATO GROUND FORCES PERSONNEL IN THE NGA FOR MBFR PURPOSES: 193,000 U.S. PERSONNEL AND 777,000 NATO PERSONNEL. THESE FIGURES ARE NOW IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. EXCEPT FOR THE U.S. FIGURE, NATO HAS NOT AGREED UPON INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY TOTALS FOR MBFR PURPOSES. BASED ON LATEST INDIVIDUAL COUNTRY ESTIMATES, NATO CURRENTLY ESTIMATES THAT IT HAS SLIGHTLY OVER 800,000 GROUND MANPOWER IN NGA. SHOULD MISSION ATTEMPT TO PRESS NATO FOR A RETURN TO LOWER ESTIMATE OF 777,000 OR SHOULD MISSION ACCEPT APPARENT DRIFT TOWARD HIGHER ESTIMATE? U.S. DECISION ON WHETHER TO USE ACTUAL OR AUTHORIZED STRENGTH FOR MBFR PURPOSES WILL OBVIOUSLY HAVE A DIRECT IMPACT ON NATO'S ESTIMATED TOTAL. IF THE U.S. CHOOSES TO USE LOWER, ACTUAL STRENGTH FIGURE, THIS COULD CONCEIVABLY HELP REVERSE TREND TOWARD HIGHER FIGURE. IF U.S. CONTINUES TO PREFER USING HIGHER, PEACETIME AUTHORIZED STRENGTH, WE SUSPECT FRG AND THE NETHERLANDS WILL PRESS TO MAINTAIN THEIR HIGHER ESTIMATES (SEE USNATO 992). OTHER COUNTRIES MIGHT WISH TO FOLLOW SUIT. NET EFFECT OF USING AUTHORIZED STRENGTHS FOR MBFR PURPOSES WOULD FURTHER INCREASE NATO TOTAL ABOVE CURRENT ESTIMATE OF 800,000.

4. MISSION STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF TIMELY U.S. RESPONSE TO LATEST DATA SUPPORT SUBGROUP REQUEST (SEE USNATO 2005) SO  
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U.S. WILL NOT CAUSE DELAY IN NATO'S RESPONSE TO AHG DATA REQUEST (SEE VIENNA 2977). WE REITERATE THAT U.S. RESPONSE SHOULD BE IN A FORMAT SUITABLE FOR FORWARDING TO AHG.

5. SINCE U.S PROVIDED ACTUAL RPT ACTUAL GROUND MANPOWER STRENGTHS IN ITS LATEST SUBMISSION TO NATO FORCE PLANNING DATA BASE, WE ANTICIPATE THAT MBFR DATA SUBGROUP'S CHAIRMAN WILL CONTINUE TO URGE U.S. TO PROVIDE ACTUAL RPT ACTUAL AIR MANPOWER STRENGTHS IN NGA. MCAULIFFE

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